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Christine O. Gregoire

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Utilities and Transportation Division

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September 19, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

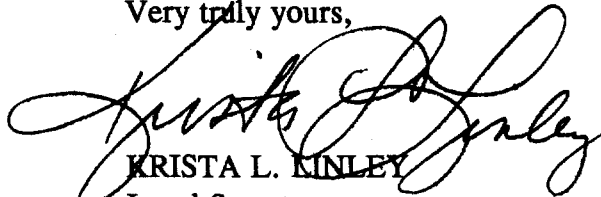
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RE: Ex Parte CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

Enclosed is a Notice for filing. Please read the attached letter for explanation. Even though the address is correct, these documents were returned to us as "Not Deliverable As Addressed". Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,


KRISTA L. KINLEY
Legal Secretary

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Christine O. Gregoire

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Utilities and Transportation Division

1400 S Evergreen Park Drive SW • PO Box 40128 • Olympia WA 98504-0128 • (360) 753-2281

September 5, 1996

RECEIVED
SEP 23 1996
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EX PARTE

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
1919 M St. N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte CC Docket No. 96-45, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Mr. Caton:

On August 8, 1996, librarians from across the State of Washington and other public officials met with Chairman Sharon Nelson and Lee Palagyi, member and staff of the Joint Board respectively, at a meeting organized by the Washington State Library Commission. The discussion was consistent with the filings of the American Library Association in this docket. The materials attached were shared with Chairman Nelson and Lee Palagyi.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(a)(2) of the Commission's rules, we submit for filing this original and one copy of this notice, with attachments.

Sincerely,


JEFFREY D. GOLTZ
Senior Assistant Attorney General

JDG/dc
Attachments
cc: Nancy Zussy, Washington
State Librarian



TINA PODLODOWSKI
Seattle City Councilmember

Tina M. Podlodowski
Seattle City Council
WUTC Testimony

August 8, 1996
1:30 p.m.

Hello and good afternoon. My name is Tina Podlodowski, and I'm a member of the Seattle City Council. Thank you, Commissioner Nelson, for the opportunity to testify today before the UTC.

At the City Council, I'm chair of the Technology & Telecommunications Committee, a new committee created in January to address city technology issues across the spectrum of functions we perform every day in delivering services to the public. My testimony today will focus on some key reforms in our public library system where technology is beginning to help us meet the system's mission of being "the best library in the world..."

Do you know how I found out that was the official mission statement? Not because I'm a councilmember and someone told me. No, I saw it on the Seattle Public Library's own home page on the Internet! There...for all the world to see...is a big, bold, *and plausible* mission statement...*to be the best in the world.*

How do we get our library system to that goal? There are three important technology uses that are helping to drive the library's potential in this direction.

First, the library's traditional role as a lending institution are being made easier and more accessible through the "*On Line Card Catalog.*" Here, customer service is highlighted, because it's self directed. Does the system have the book or publication I'm looking for? Do I want to reserve the book, or even have it delivered? These are questions that can be answered from the privacy of the office or home, and the telecommunications requirements of this type of use are relatively low.

Second, the library as a reference source for complex materials has been enhanced and spotlighted by new technology access. More and more of these reference materials are available in digital format. The modern library needs the telecommunications capability to accommodate a retrieval performance level that can meet customer need. Many of these reference materials are proprietary and not openly accessible via the Internet. The Seattle Public Library, for example, is the purchaser of a periodical service providing a variety of publications on-line. To use these new services fully, telecommunications linkages must provide high-bandwidth capabilities to download text, graphic images, and in the near future, audio and video.

Finally and maybe most importantly, the library's greatest public service as a purveyor of literacy is poised to wield its highest influence yet through technology and access to technology. Basic literacy and technology literacy should marry. Our kids,(and I have an

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eight-month old) will need to be technology literate to succeed. Our 25, 35, 45 and 55 year olds need to be technology literate, too. The 1996 Telecommunications Bill offers some potential through Universal Service support for special services to libraries.

High-speed linkages at libraries can offer an access point to the Internet, and connected at discounted rates. Access to the ever-changing and growing Internet should be the primary focus for Universal Services. Here in Seattle, we have made some terminals available for public access to the Internet, but we've got to do more.

Statistics show that the demographics of those with a college education mirror the demographic profile of the average Internet user. The technology revolution has already left many behind, and it is our responsibility to help the technology "have nots" catch up. Universal Service needs to address this gap. The more resources the library is able to offer via the Internet, the more citizens we are potentially able to serve and at reduced cost. But we have to get the telecommunications systems in place to provide this. This means every public venue should have an access point. It also means encouraging Internet account set-up to become as easy as selecting a long-distance service. Many telecommunications companies are beginning to offer bundled access service with basic telephone or long-distance service packages. This makes choice and options easier for the consumer and taxpayer easier to understand.

I'd like to reiterate a concern voiced by your colleagues on the WUTC in their comments to the Federal Communications Commission. In many communities, the best access for libraries may come through shared resources with our institutions, colleges, schools and government. The Universal Service proposal which offers discounted rates for libraries should have a provision assuring us that such telecommunications partnerships do not void a library's ability to benefit from Universal Service support.

Finally, the Universal Service support mechanism you are creating today will help us meet the primary goal of greater citizen access to technology – either through libraries, schools, community centers...in fact any public venue. It must succeed or those citizens who can't afford home computers, or are not technology literate will be excluded from the community of the 21st Century. That gap already exists today. We've got to work harder to close it. Thank you for your efforts to help correct this problem. And thank you for the opportunity to testify.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

**Telecommunications discussion with
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commissioner Sharon Nelson**

Thursday, August 8, 1996

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Seattle Public Library Board Room

The Washington State Library Commission invites you to a discussion forum with Sharon Nelson, Chair of the Utilities and Transportation Commission and member, FCC National Joint Board. The purpose of the forum is for Commissioner Nelson to hear from and discuss with members of the Washington library community, their concerns and recommendations for developing Universal Service principles and preferential pricing for libraries, as provided for in the national 1996 Telecommunications Act.

You can participate in a number of ways:

1. Attend the forum to listen, give testimony, or enter into discussions with Commissioner Nelson.
2. Send testimony, or an anecdotal presentation, outlining your library's experiences in attempting to gain and maintain access to vital telecommunications services.
3. Borrow a recorded version of the meeting from the State Library (contact me for details) and send comments.

It is particularly important for Commissioner Nelson to hear from libraries in both rural and high-cost urban areas, but all points of view are welcome. Suggestions and recommendations for action are as important as outlining the telecommunications environment in which libraries operate. We anticipate attendance by ALA Washington Office staff, also.

**MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE IS LIMITED AND WILL ACCOMMODATE
APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE.** While you need not register to attend the meeting, please call the State Library if you plan to attend.

Please call Seattle Public Library's downtown facility for directions, at 206-386-4100. Parking is available north of the library in the Olympic garage. Other questions? Please contact either Cathy Stussy, WSL Confidential Secretary, at 360-753-2914 <Internet cstussy@wln.com>, or me at 360-753-2915 <Internet nzussy@wln.com>.

-- Nancy Zussy, State Librarian

Hello, I'm Yvonne Chen, the Chair of the Washington State Advisory Council on Libraries. We represent a broad section of the Washington library community, rural public libraries from Odessa and Kettle Falls, urban libraries of all sizes Bellingham, Milton, Spokane, and Seattler, university and community college libraries, health services libraries, district libraries from Washington counties like Fort Vancouver and Pierce, school libraries, and many others. We have worked hard to come up with this goal as a top priority. That is.

"In order to achieve equity of access to information, the users of each public library will have walk-in access to electronic information provided by an affordable and reliable graphical connection to the Internet and other digital information products." That simple statement reflects the dedication in the Washington library community to provide access to all citizens of Washington, regardless of where they live or work, and how rich or poor their local libraries are.

Although we are willing to forego individual opportunities for federal grant monies so that other libraries can be connected, we recognize that our pidly LSCA or LSTA funds will not carry us far. We also know that equipment is not the only barrier to connectivity. How can a small reading room with a shared phone line even contemplate connecting the remote sites full of rich information? Over and over again, we hear that it is the prohibitive continuing costs, and the unaffordable rates that are the barriers. So please help us leverage our very limited funds by lowering the anti on telecommunications access rates.

Here are three ways you can help:

- Don't discriminate against rural areas because we don't have the population density. Give us the same rates and services as urban areas.
- Establish a minimum standard of reliable connectivity that begins with but is not limited to a 56K connection for all Washington libraries.
- Recognize that libraries in Washington are and collaborating with community centers, schools, colleges and universities, and health care networks to realize our goal of universal access, and give us the same same type of educational discounts that schools have.

Thank you.